



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Major Jon Siepmann – 916-854-3304

September 30, 2005
Release # 09-15-05

Wayne Newton and friends entertain TF Katrina troops

BELLE CHASSE NAVAL AIR STATION, LA- Wayne Newton and other entertainers performed yesterday evening to an enthusiastic crowd of service personnel as part of a USO tour of Task Force Katrina units.

The hour-long show was another of the famous singer's many performances for US service personnel all over the world. Newton, dressed in black trousers, shirt, and cowboy boots initially acted as master of ceremonies during the show introducing the other entertainers, then bombarded the crowd with a rousing closer.

Country western singer Neil McCoy received a warm welcome while performing two of his hit songs. Service men and women, sang along, cheered, waved, and swayed to the music. Many still and video cameras were in use, capturing images of the performer. McCoy seemed thrilled to play to the crowd, thanking them for their service while singing about beer goggles and other country western themes.

One of the main highlights of the show was singer Brenda Lee's inspiring voice. Lee stood at the side of the stage for most of the one-hour show, but moved up front to sing a soulful, heart-felt gospel piece, and amazed the audience with her rich voice during the emotional, spiritual number.

The program concluded with Newton climbing back on stage, pulling out a fiddle, and showing why this versatile performer still has what it takes to please a crowd of any age or cultural background after nearly a half-century of playing and singing. Newton's country fiddle work was nothing short of amazing as he practically made the strings smoke and the band struggled to keep up. The audience spontaneously rose up and cheered wildly as he finished with a flourish.

The hour-long show ended with Newton's traditional standard, "Danke Schoen." He performed the song in his now famous deep and swinging lounge style rather than the high-pitch of his younger days.

As the music ended, Newton took a deep bow and made sure the crowd cheered the other performers one final time before running off backstage. Newton was headed for yet

another show; another opportunity to entertain troops who will surely appreciate the thanks and encouragement provided by the generous and tireless performers of the USO.

-30-